

**REMARKS**

The present application was originally filed with claims 1-20. A Preliminary Amendment concurrently filed with the present application eliminated the multiple dependency in claims 13 and 14 and added new dependent claims 21-24 so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims was preserved. Accordingly, the arrangement of the claims subject to examination in the pending Official Action is as follows:

Claim 1 is an independent claim from which depends claims 15 and 22;

Claim 2 is an independent claim from which depends claims 16 and 21;

Claim 3 is an independent claim from which depends claims 13 and 17;

Claim 4 is an independent claim from which depends claims 18 and 24;

Claim 5 is an independent claim from which depends claims 19 and 23;

Claim 6 is an independent claim from which depends claims 14 and 20;

Claim 7 is an independent claim from which depends claim 10;

Claim 8 is an independent claim from which depends claim 11; and

Claim 9 is an independent claim from which depends claim 12.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 15 and 18, but indicated that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 17 and 19-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. From the foregoing description of the claims, it is evident that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are already in independent form and that such claims are therefore allowable in their present form along with claims 11-14, 16, 17, 19-21 and 23 which depend from various of these allowed independent claims.

As to the remaining claims, the present Amendment amends claim 1 to include the recitations of claim 22 (with claim 22 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer) which should result in the allowance of claim 1 and claim 15 which depends therefrom. In addition, claim 4 has been amended to include the recitations of 24 (with claim 24 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer) which should result in the allowance of claim 4 and claim 18 which depends therefrom. Finally, independent claim 7 and claim 10 which depended therefrom have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, all the claims now of record are believed to be in allowable form based on the statement of the Examiner in the Official Action and applicants therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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